





# FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSPAPER



## WHO BENEFITS FROM THE PRISON-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX?

There are several reasons why the prison-industrial complex continues as it does, and I will focus on two of the most important. The first is that in punishing people our society attempts to appease the fearful side of its own human nature. The second is that vested interests keep this very unsuccessful system going.

Anger, resentment, rage, fear, even bitterness are very normal reactions of crime victims. The dark side of our human nature cries out for vengeance and a chance to hit back. It is also a side we need to keep in check as a society. Unhindered, it can produce unwarranted fearfulness, suspicion, even paranoia.

When it comes to vested interests, there are many groups who have an interest in the maintenance of the status quo of prisons. In no particular order I will nominate nine such groups. Let me say clearly and emphatically that within each group there is a minority who hold opposing views and are much more open and positive in their approach.

The vast majority of prison guards, police, judges, forensic psychologists, prison vendors of every description, criminal prosecutors, and even some criminal defense attorneys do not want to know about alternatives such as restorative justice. The culture within each of these groupings often seems to preclude much genuine dialogue and discussion about the outcomes of the very work they are employed in doing. As I say, thankfully there are exceptions.

The media have a vested interest. Despite millions of words of rhetoric to the contrary, the media generally and the tabloid media in particular keep alive all the old racist stereotypes by the way they report crime, court cases and criminal offending, often out of all proportion to other news. Where would the tabloids be without a regular front page crime story? Or the talk show hosts? Or television night time crime shows such as CSI, Criminal Minds, NCIS, Flashpoint, SVU, etc.? One night a while back on NBC world news, nine of the first 10 stories related to crime, here and overseas.

The construction and subsidiary industries have a vested interest in an expanding prison and jail network and are, by implication, happy to see a high crime rate continue. Warehousing the poor in prisons is now a worldwide trend in many industrialized countries, with the United States, Britain, China, and Russia leading the way. With huge profits being made through constructing, expanding, and providing for new prisons and old, the corporate culture has readily taken up the challenge that crime offers to make a profit out of human misery. A directory called the Corrections Yellow Pages lists more than a thousand vendors. While private prisons are the most lucrative, state-controlled ones are also high on the corporate agenda, providing guaranteed payment and regular income.

Many academics in the fields of law, criminology, social work, sociology, psychology, & psychiatry have a vested interest. Too many sit in ivory towers teaching outmoded theories, denying students opportunities to develop creative responses to the social problems caused by crime.

Strange as it may seem, many politicians also have a vested interest in not seeing creative options to crime and prisons researched, trialled and reviewed. Generally they believe it is perceived to be soft to be advocating alternatives. The reality is the exact opposite. Most alternative programs are a lot tougher in that they demand accountability, with offenders having to take

responsibility for what they have done. But few politicians are prepared to promote or fund them.

Finally, the new corporate elite running prisons and prison policy were brought in to try to change the harsh macho prison culture that had been built up over generations. While to a degree some dimensions of that have been tackled, they have also brought in the culture of measured success, which in corporate terms often means wage cutting, program deletion, and prison expansion. Prison numbers have gone through the roof over the last 10 years or so. All this is conducted with the glossy PR expertise so characteristic of the corporate hard sell.

Prisons are now presented to the public as desirable industries to have in local communities because of the job creation and new economic spending power available. Little attention is given to the thought of what a prison is, who is locked up or why. This is a deliberate attempt to shift the public perception of imprisonment from being a scandal and a sign of massive failure to one that makes prisons desirable acquisitions for a local community like a sports stadium, medical center or a public university.

Not until we understand better the forces that hold the unjust prison system up, can we effectively fight against it.

Troy, CA

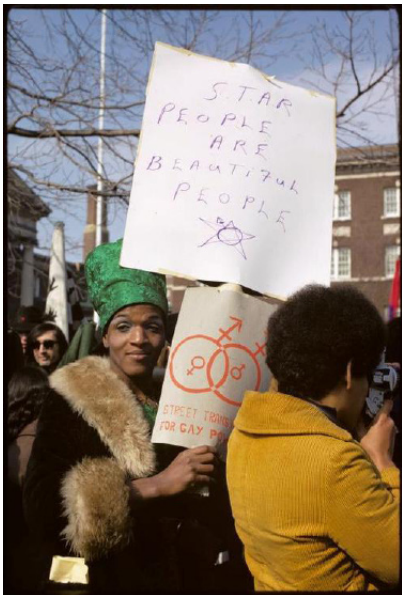
## LGBTQ BLACK WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW

Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender women represent a vibrant and visible portion of the LGBTQ community. In addition to the legends of the Harlem Renaissance and the decades of groundbreaking activism spearheaded by women like Audre Lorde, Barbara Smith and Angela Davis, many of the most prominent coming out stories of the past two years have been black women like Brittney Griner, Raven-Symonè, Diana King and Robin Roberts. Meanwhile, Laverne Cox and Janet Mock have become the most visible transgender women in media. *Editor’s Note: These are a few examples from a longer piece of 100 women published on Autostraddle, February 26th, 2014.*

Before her death in 2000, Ruth Ellis was considered the world’s oldest surviving out lesbian. In 1937, living in Detroit with her partner Babe Franklin, Ellis became the first woman to own a printing business in the city. Her house eventually became a congregating spot for African-American gays and lesbians, and now The Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit is one of four U.S. agencies dedicated to homeless LGBT youth and teenagers.



**RUTH ELLIS (1899-2000), ACTIVIST**



Marsha P. Johnson co-founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) with Sylvia Rivera, where she was known as the house “mother,” and was one of the leaders in clashes with police at the Stonewall Riots.

**MARSHA P JOHNSON (1944-1992), ACTIVIST / ARTIST**

*More on Page 11*

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**SEND US YOUR ART!**

**This month’s header is by John in Indiana!** Have your art featured in the Newspaper! We’ll feature a different artist each month! Send us a drawing that says, “Black & Pink” or “Black and Pink” or “Poetry from the Heart” for the headers! Header art should be around the size of the newspaper header! Smaller or larger images may be resized to fit. You can send us other art too and we will include it in the poetry page.

WHAT’S INSIDE

Page 2  
A Message from Jason  
Ky’s Story  
Page 3, 4, and 5  
Letters to Our Family  
Page 6  
Poetry from the Heart  
Page 7, 8, 9  
Black and Pink Resource Guide  
Black and Pink Hotline Number (Page 7)  
Family Feedback Form (Page 7)  
Page 10  
Struggling for Rights  
State of the Black Union  
Page 11  
Every Breath a Black Trans Woman Takes is an Act of Revolution  
How Respectability Politics Muted the Legacy of LGBT Activist Pauli Murray  
Page 12  
Statement from BreakOUT! on Death of Black Transgender Youth in New Orleans  
In Life and In Death, We Are All Survivors, #BlackTransLivesMatter  
Calendar  
Addresses

**Statement of Purpose**  
Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

Black & Pink is proudly a family of people of all races.

**About this Newspaper**  
Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers have pulled together a monthly newspaper primarily composed of material written by our family’s incarcerated members. In response to letters we receive, more prisoners receive the newspaper each issue!  
This month, the newspaper is being sent to: **7,252** prisoners!

**Disclaimer:**  
Please note that the ideas and opinions expressed in the Black & Pink Newspaper are solely those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of Black & Pink. Black & Pink makes no representations as to the accuracy of any statements made in the Newspaper, including but not limited to legal and medical information. Authors and artists bear sole responsibility for their work. Everything published in the Newspaper is also on the internet—it can be seen by anyone with a computer. By sending a letter to “Newspaper Submissions,” you are agreeing to have your piece in the Newspaper and on the internet. For this reason, we only publish First Names and State Location to respect people’s privacy. Pieces may be edited to fit our anti-oppression values and based on our Editing Guidelines.

**A DECADE OF BLACK AND PINK**  
Anyone who is being released between now and September, PLEASE send us your outside contact information. We are planning a big gathering in October 2015 to celebrate 10 years of Black and Pink. We will be having a big party on Friday night and a weekend long conference to plan the next steps for Black and Pink. We will be able to pay for travel, housing, and food of those who attend. We will also offer a stipend of \$150 to formerly incarcerated people who attend.

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO HOT PINK!**  
Seeking erotic short stories, poems, AND ART by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-world family members for a new ‘zine. To be mailed, art cannot include full nudity. Please send submissions (and shout outs to the authors from the first issue mailed in January!) addressed to Black & Pink - HOT PINK. This is a voluntary project, and no money will be offered for submissions, but you might get the chance to share your spicy story with many others! The zine will be sent 1-2 times per year. To subscribe to receive a copy of HOT PINK twice a year, write to our address, Black & Pink - GENERAL.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON

Dear friends,

I hope this note finds you as well as possible. You will notice that we are still getting our schedule figured out with the newspaper. We appreciate your patience with us. One of the great joys of being an all-volunteer organizing effort is that we have people working with us who are all deeply passionate about justice. One of the challenges is that everyone is navigating and juggling a lot in their lives. If it takes a while to get a response or to get the newspaper, it is not out of a lack of commitment to you or the struggle. Please know that you are cared for and never forgotten.

February is Black History Month. This month of remembering originally began as Negro History Week in 1925. The efforts behind the honoring of the week came from Carter G. Woodson, a Black historian and journalist who founded the Journal of Negro History. Unsurprisingly, like most of our political ancestors, Woodson was under surveillance by the FBI. According to a biography on Woodson, written by Jacqueline Goggin, the FBI targeted him because of his belief in Black people's right to self determination. Woodson also spoke on the need for Black people, across class lines, to align together in struggle. In a letter to the NAACP in 1915, Woodson wrote of a need for the organization to take more militant positions and expand operations. When the NAACP rejected his suggestions he wrote back to the Chairman stating, “I am a radical. I am ready to act, if I can find brave men to help me.” It is from radical Black leadership that we hear a call for telling history, of remembering the past to shape the work of today.

Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, have been buzzing with another interpretation of Black History Month. The hashtag, #BlackFutureMonth has been used by Black activists and organizers to tell stories of what is possible. One of the images circulating includes a picture of hands breaking chains, with a heart underneath them. Above the picture is a quote, “Standing in the present and inspired by the past, we envision many futures where black lives matter, black love reins, and black people are free.” At our best, the work of Black and Pink centers this quote in what we do. Centering Black lives, radical Black history, and visions of a world where Black people are free; all of these things forward liberation for all people. Former US president, Ronald Reagan had a foolish idea of trickle down economics, believing that if the wealthiest were given more resources that in some way that would result in poor and marginalized people having more access. The reality is that the opposite is true. When we build from the bottom up, when we organize from the margins, when those most impacted by violence and harm are taking the lead, then all people have access to greater liberation. When we imagine a world free from prisons, we are imagining “futures where black lives matter, black love reins, and black people are free.”

What does Black History/Future Month mean to you? For those of us who are not Black, what would it look like to align with Black struggle? When all oppressed people fight alongside each other there is incredible power. What would it look like, where you are locked up, to align across race? What risks are involved? Who is at most risk? What would the possibilities be? When we look at the recent history, back to 1960s, most successful prison justice efforts were interracial campaigns with strong Black leadership. Do you see examples of that around you? Are you leading or taking part in these campaigns? What can you imagine?

Those of you who have been getting the Black and Pink newspaper for a long time may remember some of our issues when we have shared important LGBTQ Black prison history. Among the people we have highlighted was New Afrikan Anarchist political prisoner, Kuwasi Balagoon. Balagoon was a bisexual Black leader who died of AIDS related illnesses in prison in 1986. He gave his life to the struggle for justice and Black power. I want to close my letter with one of my favorite quotes from him, “the myth that the Imperialists should not be confronted and cannot be beaten is eroding fast and we stand here ready to do whatever to make the myth erode even faster, and to say for the record that not only will the Imperialist U.S. lose, but that it should lose.”

We keep doing everything we can knowing that once

Page 2  
there were no prisons, that day will come again.  
In Loving solidarity,  
Jason

KY’S STORY

On October 28th 2011, the life that Ky Peterson knew came to an end. Ky and his younger brothers (they were 14 and 16) took a walk to a neighborhood convenient store. After making his purchase, Ky waited outside the store for his brothers. While waiting, Ky was approached by a man who made sexual advances toward him. When Ky asked the man to leave him alone, the man then walked way, uttering derogatory insults as he got in his vehicle. Ky then went into the store and told his brothers that he was walking home, leaving them to follow behind him. As Ky passed an abandoned trailer in a nearby mobile home park, the man ran up behind him and hit Ky over the head (possibly with a gun), knocking him unconscious. The man then dragged Ky into the abandoned trailer and began assaulting him. At some point during the attack, Ky regained consciousness and began fighting and yelling for help. It was at this point that his brothers were walking near the trailer and ran to help Ky. The 2 boys pulled at the man to get him off of Ky, and while Ky struggled against the attacker, he grabbed the gun and shot the man 1 time.

With Ky injured and in shock, the boys panicked (being young, black men from a small town in south Georgia) and attempted to cover up the killing. The next day, when police came and questioned the boys, Ky told them about the attack. The police took them in and threatened to charge the boys with armed robbery and 1st degree murder. and threatening to charge the teens as adults. Ky and his brothers stood by their story and when it became apparent that Ky was suffering from injuries, the police took him to The Lily Pad Center, where he was examined and a rape kit was done. The nurse who performed the examination confirmed that Ky had been brutally raped and sodomized, yet she felt the need to point out that Ky “did not exhibit behavior that is common with women who have been raped” . (Given that Ky is a trans man, I imagine he responded much like any other man who has been sexually assaulted)

After he was examined, the police returned Ky to the Sumter County jail. At his 1st appearance, he pleaded Not Guilty with a Sumter County Public Defender. After that, he was returned to the county jail where he sat for a YEAR with no word from a single person about his case. He was supposed to have a victim’s rights advocate and receive treatment for the physical and emotional injuries he received during his attack. He got nothing... they left a rape victim to rot in jail because he doesn’t look or act like a woman.

His public defender should have protected him under the Georgia Stand Your Ground Law. He never should have been charged in the first place.

He was supposed to have meetings with his public defender within 45 days of his arrest. No one from the county interviewed him about his case or his defense. The county realized that Ky was a victim and was forced to reduce his charge to Involuntary Manslaughter. That didn’t stop the county from trying to do as much damage as possible. 1 year later, another public defender appeared and offered Ky a plea “bargain” of 20 years with 15 years to serve.

\*According to Georgia State Code O.C.G.A. § 16-5-3 (a) ... A person who commits the offense of involuntary manslaughter in the commission of an unlawful act, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than ten years.

Like many people caught unaware in the Georgia legal system, Ky was bullied into signing this plea “deal”. It is this sentence, along with the many other negligent actions of Sumter County, which leads us to believe that Ky has suffered tremendous injustices because of racial, gender, and sexual biases. Ky was unlawfully sentenced. Upon arriving in prison, Ky has suffered continuous dehumanizing treatment from Prison staff and officers. He’s not the only one; there is an unusually high population of Trans men and women being held with the U.S prison system. Our purpose is to raise awareness of Ky’s situation and the dehumanization that the transgender population suffers in state institutions.

Thank you for your support.

*This statement was written by Ky’s support team.*

Dear Black and Pink Family,

Hi my name is Susie. I am transgender, I also am a peer support specialist. I graduated in Dec of 2011. Since that time I have been using my strengths to be all I was meant to be. I have wrote to you before and told you a lot of trauma that I went through in my childhood, and self-mutilation that I have done to myself. Well I am pleased to share with my wonderful family at Black & Pink that after 3 years of evaluation & assessment, in Feb of 2014 I finally put on my first Estradiol patch 0.5 mg once a week. I also take 100 mg of Spironolactone a day. This was the first for PA DOC. As I wasn’t taken it until I come to prison, I had a lot of so-called friends until my breasts started to develop. Only a few remain and that’s fine by me. Here are some of the abusive things I go through from inmates and staff, mostly CO. We have bars on our cell doors here at SCI rockview and of course I am 2 coded and on the SNU special needs unit. Every time I go to meal line or to take a shower when I come back there is salt and soap shavings all over my bed. I have found chicken bones with feathers taped to the fiberglass insulation. I get stopped at the officers’ desk and asked how big I want my breasts and when am I going to get a vagina. I send to a lot of bookstores for free books. I was receiving them on a regular basis until my hormone treatment was approved. Now I watch CO take stickers off my books when they come and they give them to the other inmates. I refuse to give in and let them win. I stand up for all our family rights. I am also trying to get female undergarments as well as to have commissary desegregated. I have been told the PA DOC has a committee meeting to decide what transgenders will be allowed to purchase.

There were so many times I just about gave up and took my life. But I don’t want to let them win. I will never ask for segregation or PC. But I also will never give up on fighting for OUR rights. I already get retaliated against but I am NOT afraid. I want everyone to know if need be I will die for our cause.

My prayer is you receive this letter and that everyone will use all their strength to be all they were meant to be. Thank you Black and Pink.

Love to all my family at Black & Pink,  
Susie Lynn Moon, Pennsylvania

Life as a transgendered woman in the male prison industrial complex is ripe with drama and land-mines, that force us women to live a life of tiptoeing on egg shells. Many people have a tendency and desire to interpose their own uncontrollable lust onto others around them, especially men, who seem to assume that since they would screw pretty much anything with tits and a heartbeat that women and trans women want to get laid by any man with a heartbeat...

Just recently, I experienced this misconception once again; being housed among the men means that I’m often accused of hitting on and “chasing” guys in my unit or watching them in a sexually lustful manner. As I said recently, I was the butt of rumors that I was hitting on and pushing myself on three “straight” guys in my unit; even though this was completely untrue, it was taken as truth by the masses due to my being transgender. This becomes a dangerous game because it invites violence, paranoia, and potential sexual assault against the transgender individuals in the environment. Such is why transgendered women will never be safe within the male populated facility. How are we supposed to address this kind of situation? The trans women are forced to live with not only the “normal” unwritten “prison code” but we’re forced to live subjected to many unwritten “codes” and rules of conduct/”engagement” that only apply because we live outside the accepted gender binaryism of the community/environment.

Every day we are subject to catcalls, heckling, and vicious gossip about our every move and breath. How can we live in such an environment safely? Plus we are thrown into a massive liberty issue where we are forced to be “sheep amongst a pack of wolves” and our safety and well-being is in jeopardy every day. Fight for love and life!

Jakaelynn, NY  
*(edited: two sentences removed to emphasize personal experience rather than gender essentialism, gender essentialism refers to the belief that there are essential differences between genders)*

Dear Black and Pink,

Thank you so much for including me in the family with the sending of Black & Pink. I am transgender and in one of California’s prisons. At this prison we have recently started two LGBT friendly groups for anyone regardless of sexual orientation. As long as you are respectful, you may attend the weekly group. But we also have a transgender only group that meets twice a week. I do my best to keep both groups informed on issues from the outside as far as services for when anyone is paroled. I have shared your newsletter with the groups and have given the address so everyone can receive the newsletter. Our group sponsor copied the form from the May newsletter for the penpal program. I’ve sent my form in. I hope everyone else has as well. Though this prison has a lot of transgenders and gay men, this is still a prison full of ignorant people when it comes to the treatment of us. Though the groups help some talk about their issues, more needs to be done. The 602 (grievance appeals) process is timely and discouraging to say the least. I myself have no problem with doing the paperwork. Change only happens if you are persistent. Everyone in life has struggles. The LGBT community in prisons has a lot more to deal with because of stupidity and neglect. Some of the stories of your readers are very heartbreaking. I can identify with many of them. Black & Pink is an avenue for

many to be heard who maybe would have never thought to tell anyone else. Sometimes it is less painful to stay silenced. Everyone is different in how they deal with situations. Regardless, Black & Pink is a voice for everyone. I hope that we can find it in our hearts to be good listeners and continue to fight for those who are silenced. Because one day they too will be heard. Be strong,  
Lisa, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Black & Pink Family,

First of all I wish to thank everyone at Black & Pink for providing the LGBTQ both on the streets and in prison with a newspaper to stay connected. I enjoy every issue I’ve received, I fully understand all the hassles and troubles LGBTQ inmates go through, and my heart goes out to all of you.

My name is Don, I’m a gay white male who’s 54 years old, and it wasn’t until I was 49 that I came out to a select few people, none of which were family. It wasn’t until the age of 12 that a friend at school showed me things to help show me who I really was. I can’t thank this friend enough for opening my eyes. It was real easy to hide the fact that I’m gay from family and friends. I grew up in a really, really small town, and everyone knows what everyone else is doing.

In 2009, I received a 12 year sentence so I decided to finally come out, even to my family. Coming out in a federal SOMP (Sex Offender Management Program) yard was a big mistake. Members of the psychology department have called me disgusting for being gay, the pictures of men I had are disgusting, even though straight inmates can have the same type of pictures, and because I’m gay, I live a deviant sexual lifestyle. The psychologists also believe they can change you from being gay to straight since it’s just a choice we make.

Then for all the people out there that believe we get great medical care, here’s something for you to think about. On May 15, 2014, I was told by the head doctor at the prison that my kidneys are failing. He ruled out the two main causes, but instead of setting up tests to find out why, he set me up to check my blood next year. My kidneys can completely fail by that time. This is the great medical attention inmates receive, according to the public.

Thank you once again for providing this great newspaper and to all my brothers and sisters, take care of yourselves and keep your heads up.  
Don, CO

Hello!

I am writing because there is a serious problem in the prison system that we all need to stand up and stick together to end. I teach all the new inmates about PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act), a bill signed in 2003 to end sexual assault on inmates by staff and by other inmates. By law, this class (one hour) is to be given to everyone every time they enter state, local, or federal prisons. For the past 10 years the law has been ignored. Over the past years they have allowed a few inmates to be trained by professionals to teach this class. It is mandatory, but with only two of us in this prison of 1900 women doing it, it is a battle. They put us in a room meant to hold 6 to 8 people and cram in 10 to 15 so everyone is cranky and not listening. This just makes it easier for the bad guys to keep on raping and abusing and the victims scared, alone, and unaware of their options. Being a dyke makes me a constant target for comments that would get you fired in an office but I know how to stand up and say I’m not scared, I’m not ashamed of who I am and I will not be a victim ever again. I tried to talk to these women so they hear that prison rape is not just an urban legend or the plot for a sick porn flick- it’s real and the only way to stop it is to educate ourselves, empower ourselves and stand together united all races, genders, sexualities, ages. We need to get the word out- rape is rape whether you live in San Francisco, Miami, London, Iraq, or in prison. Check up on that person down the way who never comes out of their cell, let each other know that we aren’t alone, be what you know you are-strong, proud, human and vigilant. Together we can make them hear us. Please educate one another about safety, respect, tolerance and our basic human rights. Those don’t change because of how you dress, who you love, what you call yourself, where you live, or why you live there. I love each and every one of you and stand by your sides constantly. Never give up! We are amazing! Stop allowing them to tell you you are anything less than perfect! Spread the word about PREA; anyway I can help from my little eagle’s nest, I’m willing. Much love,  
Alissa, CA

Dear B&P Family

Let me say that one of my sisters gave me your - our address, and I couldn’t believe it when he told me what it was. I’ve been gone a long time & barely hearing about it. I’m so happy that our Familia is coming up in the world. I used to be in a gang but got out ‘cause I was tired of hiding my true self. I’m so amazed of how much we have accomplished in this cruel world. I’ve been in so many fights ‘cause of these people who don’t have no respect for other human beings. Well to all my Familia, LGBT keep y’all’s heads up, don’t give up now. Not when we’ve come so far, we started from the bottom now we here, now we are a part of society. Let’s go BROTHERS & SISTERS! Stop hiding, come out & join us. I’m gay & proud: From one to another, I LOVE Y’all. Black & Pink we are a Familia and are proud of this Newspaper.

Much Love  
Francisco Garcia-Pancho

Hey Peeps,

First of all, I send my love and respects to everyone in Black ‘n’ Pink for standing on the front line in this war. My name is Richie, I’m a 33 year old Gay guy locked down in New York. As I navigate my way through these prisons, I remain unbowed. My oppressors as well as those inmates who dislike “my kind” because their minds are unable to process and accept what a new age man looks like and sounds like aren’t of real concern to me. My focus remains on a better tomorrow for our family.

It doesn’t matter what state you’re imprisoned in or the color of your skin. If you are LGBTQ you have an obligation to embrace your family with everything that’s good in you. We are a fractured community in most cases behind these walls. I hear so many stories of heartache, loneliness, and abuse that never seem to end with a mention of support. So I challenge any and everyone who is reading this. Find peace and comfort with those who are LGBTQ in your prison, embrace them and help each other with your struggles. Only then will we define the meaning of family. If you’re not part of the solution, then you’re part of the problem. I promise you this, if you decide to rise above, you’ll be surprised how transparent and trivial our problems with each other are. It’s not a bad thing to love your family.

With all my love and high hopes and dreams,  
Richie, New York

Dear B&P family:

My name is Fatima Shayla Pearl, also known simply as Shayla. You may recognize my name from an article I sent in to Black & Pink, or if you’ve read Hot Pink you may be familiar with my ‘behind the eight ball’ story. However, besides my exploits as a long time prostitute, I am also a very staunch supporter of the gay rights movement, prison reform and human rights generally. I’m also, above all else, an African American transwoman doing time in a California prison.

A prison system that is inherently both racist and discriminatory, especially when it comes down to gender preferences, and attitudes, we are women though not always in looks but always in the reality of our hearts and minds and souls, not because we decided at some point that we “wanted” to be a woman, but because we know that this is who we are, and who we are supposed to be, so we have chosen to stop hiding behind what society thinks should be the norm when it comes to gender identity and be ourselves; for that we are verbally castigated, mentally and physically abused, and ostracized to the point that causes many of my brothers and sisters to commit suicide.

We are ignored in the legal system for the most part, and in these prisons every attempt is made to make us feel as if we are freaks of nature, and that activity is wholly condoned by staff at almost every level. Our lives in these institutions are frequently in jeopardy, and we are often the victims of write ups that reflect negatively upon us if we physically fight back when we are attacked. I still, and always will condone standing tall and being who you are. I am also a very strong believer in protecting yourself.

Protecting yourself comes in many different forms, but by that I mean, if you are attacked defend your person to the best of your ability until you can get to safety, and then sue the hell out of the facility, and every staff member involved in not taking the proper precautions to ensure your safety. More often than not the staff is aware that you were beaten up because you are gay or trans, and there is no doubt that that is why you were raped, but I know that they will ignore your concerns as long as they can get away with it. We have to stop letting them get away with it, simple as that.

I also tend to be vexed by the rules that define who we are, how we are “allowed” to act and what we are allowed to have in these facilities. If you identify as transgender, and have been diagnosed with “gender dysphoria,” once you are placed on Hormones, at some point you will be issued a bra chrono, which is permission to wear a bra, which you are supposed to get from the prison laundry, however they never seem to have them, and they never issue the full amount of six. At the same time if you are transgender and you are in possession of a pair of panties and makeup, it is very probable that those things will be confiscated and you may be written up for having them.

My problem with this is as a recognized transwoman, if I am allowed to have a bra I should be allowed to have all of the gender identity affirming clothing and all the other gender affirming things that define my womanhood. By not having these things I feel as if I am being denied my right to be a woman and by proxy being told that I am some sort of weirdo. I also feel that this practice is highly discriminatory, and should be addressed right along with us having access to gender affirming surgeries.

I would like to see all of my sisters (and brothers) stand up for this in their respective facilities, I would also like to see all our friends out there in the free world, our staunch supporters and advocates go to bat for us and with us on being able to have these things, we are not asking to put on drag shows around here, just to be able to truly live in our gender identity, to have access to the same gender affirming clothing, makeup and cosmetics available to inmates in womens’ facilities. So let’s fight for our freedom, our safety, our ability to receive gender affirming surgery and our basic right to be who we are and look like the woman we are.

To all my sisters in the court system fighting for the right for us to receive sexual reassignment surgery, I support your fight and as soon as we win, as soon as California does what’s right, giiiiirl I’m on it, I’ll be the first to go in, without a doubt. But until the next time, stay strong my sisters and brothers. In love and solidarity,  
Shayla, California

Dear Black and Pink,

Hey there my brothers and sisters! This is Max and I wanted to share with you my personal experiences and the difficulties I’m going through right now. First to start off by saying that I’m a 23 year old gay boy doing an 11 year sentence in the Federal System in Ohio. Reading Chris’ story in the B&P April 2014 issue gave me inspiration to tell my story. I’ve lived in a similar yet somewhat different environment of a life.

When I was eight years old I was molested by my ten year old cousin. It had left me with an inability to control my bowel movements, but at the same time I was also wetting the bed from the constant nightmares. I had been spanked time after time, given enemas and even at one point, mom got so fed up that she took me to the store, bought me diapers and made me wear them. She made me wear Goodnites and Pampers.

Several months later on down the road my cousin came to live with us ‘cause he and his mom were evicted. And we started fooling around again. And that’s when I came to feel that I was gay, at the age of eight years old.

And now here I am 15 years later, sitting in Federal Prison because of receiving pictures that I didn’t even ask for of a young friend (boy), all because I was stuck in a state of mind because my cousin started hating me and soon left me to be with a woman.

For 15 years I’ve been in and out of diapers and can’t seem to get over my problems. Before I came to Ohio, I was in North Carolina in a medium where I was sexually assaulted by a forty-five year old guy that left me mentally, physically and emotionally scarred. And what happens, I reverted right back to wetting the bed and now I’m having trouble with medical to let me have diapers cause the meds don’t work, but their excuse is because I have a history of it that facilitated my crime in my PSI. So I’m at a crossroads and don’t know what to do. I got six and a half more years before I am free and able to do things on my own again.

This is my story but I ask if there is any resolution to this to please say so. We shouldn’t be living like this, in fear and rejection, but be proud of who we are. I’m proud of who I am and that I finally have a beautiful boyfriend who will soon be my husband and someone who is willing to fight for us to be together no matter what. That’s the hope that I got. And he even accepts me for who I am and the problems I have. But the prison systems see it way differently, thinking you’re messed up in the head, and if you don’t watch it, they’ll never let you go. Which I believe is really messed up and cruel to keep someone past their release date.

To all the brothers and sisters out there, diapered, gay or not, I love you all and take care of yourselves. And know that there is always hope to look forward to.

Blessed be!  
Max, OH

Dear Black & Pink,

I am a gay Queen locked up in Michigan (came on vacation, leave on probation/parole)! My birth name is Scott, but I go by Jamie Anne. I am 39 years old. I have been locked up for almost 20 years on and off. I just started to read your newspaper through a friend of mine. I LOVE hearing what’s going on in other state’s prisons with the LGBTQ community there. I desperately wish to connect with others like me, gay and proud.

We here in Michigan experience both harassment and violence from both sides! Inmates and Staff. I am currently fighting to have myself moved from the cell block I am currently placed in. I am forced to shower alone, preferable but not by force, by the other inmates around me, I am in CONSTANT fear of being assaulted, physically, and have already had a deviated septum from one assault! My room is continuously broken into, thank God for the lock on my locker, and the police & Administration REFUSE to do anything about this problem! When I first came to prison (I am currently on my second incarceration), I was only 20 years old, but already gay, and scared to death. I was 19 when arrested for C.S.C. Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 3rd and 4th degree. A crime I DID NOT commit! Thanks to a Court appointed attorney I ended up with 15 years. I did all 15, got out and came back a year later, (thanks to my father who set me up), for the same thing! Anyway, I was raped both in my county jail & a few times in prison on my first sentence. The officers didn’t care, but now because of the PREA, Prison Rape Elimination Act, we are targeted by Administration and officers even more! We are FORCED into cells, unless in a single bunk facility like I am, with whomever. If there is a problem, our roommates are homophobic, etc., then we practically have to be assaulted or refuse to lock-up and end up in segregation for however long. Just to get moved! Then we start all over again. As soon as staff know you’re gay, here come the write-ups, the comments, and the general harassment. I am currently in a level 4 prison due to the fact that I REFUSED to put up with it and wrote some grievances on certain Staff members.

Keep up the fight!  
Jamie Anne, Michigan  
From Scott Blevin (preferred name Jamie Anne)  
Ionia, MI

Stand Tall and Continue

When you go through trials and tribulations that’s your time to show what you are really made of, that is when you must remain faithful and might, that’s when you must stand tall and continue. The gates and the walls may confine you physically, but mentally and spiritually, there’s no confines, unless you place some on yourself, so every morning tell yourself, “Mighty and faithful I am.” People may change, times may get hard but you have inside of you the power to stand tall and continue.  
“Lady” Lourisa, California

I am an open homosexual in Arizona’s prison system. Homosexuals are placed at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to respect inside of this place. The homosexuals that have gone through the protective segregation process are not allowed to stay on any yards even if you haven’t been through the process you still can’t stay.

I am a maximum custody inmate and I have been through the process. DGC doesn’t want to approve me for protective custody for what reasons(s) I don’t know, but I have to tell you this part before I get into that.

I used to claim allegiance to the prison gang ‘New Mexican Mafia’. I was accepted because I didn’t come off as being gay and I can fight. I was what you called a soldado or a soldier. When someone came onto the yard that was considered ‘amocusul’ (Nahuatl for ‘no good’) I would be one of the ones to beat him up and tell him to leave. I did this several times until I got caught and got maxed out.

In maximum custody you can’t really beat anyone up but there are other ways to assault someone like, for instance, greasing them (A mixture of water, crushed up glass and grease heated up until boiling then thrown on the person you are trying to get). So the individuals running the yard found a different way to use me - I got strung out on drugs and my family paying large sums of money to support my habit, I was told by those running the yard I could be someone inside of the prison gang.

I started studying the beautiful culture of the Aztecs and even converted my religion to Azteca. I started learning the language and the history of how the Aztecs came to be. During this time I wasn’t getting high. I was dedicated to becoming someone. I would write to several different individuals who already had status within the gang, asking them questions about prison politics. They would respond back with things like ‘we will get back to you later’ and ‘when the time comes you will find out’. It then went to, I can’t be a part of the prison gang because I’m gay and I am to stop by someone’s bars (to get assaulted). I knew what was coming so I left and went through the protective seg. process.

See I was still new to this and I was still in denial about doing this. I used to beat up inmates who had this kind of jacket. I told the shift commander I owed a bunch of money for dope they put me through the process then placed me in a pod where I was surrounded by general population. In Arizona’s DOC policy on protective seg. I am to be placed into a prevention unit. I was placed in a pop similar to the yard. When special security unit came to see me I told them I did not need protection. I was moved to a pod with solid doors upon request due to the threats being made at my previous location.

I stayed behind the solid door for a month or so then got moved around. I asked the shift sergeant to place me into the 805 process due to me being a homosexual and my life is in danger because they are not accepted. I got denied. I overheard an inmate tell another inmate that they were going to grease me when I go to the showers. I took that as a threat and the next day wrote an inmate letter to the shift commander requesting to be placed into the process. He told me that I had two options, either I can go back to my house and face whatever issues I think I had or I can get sprayed (with mace) and carried back to my cell. I started to cry because I felt that DOC’s officers didn’t care about what happened to me. The sergeant then told me there is no crying in prison and to man up. He then left the room. Another officer came back and asked me if I had issues in building 5, I told him, yes I have issues everywhere. He came back and says well, your only options are building 7 or building 5. So I told him I will go to building 5. These buildings sometimes house inmates who have issues in GP and are solid doors so I really didn’t see no harm in going there.

I got moved that same day and when I arrived at building 5 I seen a couple of individuals that I knew and they knew who I was. So I said to myself I should be OK right here. Well came time for Rec. I went out there and seen an individual who was a shot caller for the prison gang. And that’s when I knew it was all bad. I went back to my house after rec, and thought about my next steps. I thought, well I can’t go through the process because I haven’t been threatened. I could ask the CO’s to move me or him but for what reasons no threats have been made. Well a couple of days go by and my neighbor underneath me gets a wica (note) from the individuals running the pop and it stated something like, if he wanted to clean up his issues he is to get at me. In other words he is to assault me. Well I told him to send it to SSU or the shift sergeant. He did and the next day they pulled him out then they pulled me out. Now like I said when I first pulled up I was aware of some individuals that know me. One individual send me word in the form of a wica to be on my toes because word around the yard was these individuals wanted to dust (kill) me or at least try to, so I took that wica with me when I went to speak with the lieutenant. He pulled me up and asked me if any threats have been made on me. I told him yes and pulled out the wica. He said well, this doesn’t really say anything. He then said there is no new evidence to put you through the process. Then the Lt asked me what my issues were. I told him I am a homosexual. He

said well you don’t look like one. I told him I carry myself a certain way so I don’t get harassed. He looked at me and said you should be loving prison it’s like Disneyland for you. Then he said no disrespect of course. I told him well I want to go through the process. So he gave me an inmate letter and told me to write exactly why I need to go through the process. I wrote why then at the end I put that my family was looking into a civil lawsuit. That was the only reason why they put me through the process because I mentioned a civil lawsuit. The process only lasted a day. I didn’t even get a chance to appeal it, instead I got ‘alternative placement’ and was moved to another unit.

So I arrived at my new house and the same thing happens. Then I got moved to the mental health unit where I stayed for about six months; then I caught wind that I was to get greased because someone said I was a sex offender, which is untrue. At this time I had all I could take with the threats and my mom abandoning me I tried to commit suicide by taking sixty zolofts. I fell out and woke up to CO’s hand cuffing me. I went to the hospital then after to suicide watch I decided to go through the protective seg. process. I got denied and didn’t appeal it because I got moved into a pop with plexiglass on the doors I felt no need for an appeal.

At this time I decided to step and become an activist for homosexuals inside of prison. I was having family and friends call and write the prison as well as central office to put me into the protective seg. As well I was staying in contact with a prisoner activist and she was writing on my behalf but with all these individuals pleading their concerns for my safety, DOC still decides I don’t need protection.

I started reading up on the case law of Farmer v. Brennen and how it brought deliberate indifference into the courts. I started learning how a civil lawsuit works because to me it seems as if DOC don’t listen to anyone unless it comes by court order. I then found out that I am not the only homosexual that is going through this type of harassment and discrimination.

The NAACP wrote a letter to the director of Arizona’s prison about the treatment of LGBT inmates, but still nothing has happened since his response with promises about changing policy to add the LGBT inmates.

I recently got reclassified to a close custody yard, I was moved out of the mental health program and into a transition pop. I was ok for a couple of weeks. Until someone in the pop told me I was on a hit list. Instead of putting me through the process like I asked, he tries to give me a refuse to house ticket and calls the court movement officer down to speak to me.

They ended up sending me back to the yard. I pulled up around 7 or 8pm, the next day around 9 or 10 am I got asked my name and DOC number. Then two individuals came back and told me not to make it hard on myself to just bounce. So I left and went through the process. They moved me to the hole. Through the middle of my process I got attacked by my celly with a razor blade because I wouldn’t bow down to him and do what he wanted me to do. I got a ticket for defending myself against an assault because in a one on one fight there is no self defense.

So I got denied my initial process by the DW and at this time I get maxed out because of the fight. On my appeal I stated case law as well as failure to protect claims and a detailed reason as to why I need to be approved for protective custody. I decided if I get denied I was going to file a suit against the DOCs director.

On June 9th 2014 I got denied my appeal; not a statewide threat, my allegations are self-reported and unsubstantiated, I have not been assaulted and this part gets me, you told the inmate population information that created your issues. Hello I am a homosexual it’s pretty much already out there.

I filed a civil lawsuit against the DOCs director and the two other DOC employees. I honestly feel discriminated against and it seems like DOC wants to see me get assaulted and this part gets me. I don’t think they will do something until that happens. I tell DOC staff I need protection and their solution is to move me to another unit. I do believe you realize by now, moving units, even across the state, is not a solution to the problem there are many ways to communicate inside of prison and one of them is cell phones.

I am writing this to let the public be aware of the treatment LGBT inmates face while inside of Arizona’s prison system. I ask if you are able to spread the word about this abuse, harassment and discrimination, by officers as well as the director himself with not following through and creating a policy for LGBT inmates. This will not stop until Arizona’s director is ordered by the courts to draw up a policy that reads about the safety of LGBT inmates.

If you are someone who can help create a new policy please step up and help me do so. I am not the only homosexual going through this. If you are someone who can publish this in your newspaper, please do so and let the public weigh in on the treatment of LGBT inmates in Arizona’s prison.

Thank you for your time and concern,  
In solidarity,  
Antonio, Arizona  
*[This piece was edited for length]*

WANTED!

Your smile warms my heart  
That’s why you’re wanted  
Your voice gives my day it’s start  
That’s why you’re wanted

Your honesty makes you  
Wanted  
Your loyalty keeps you  
Wanted

Your caress  
Is why you’re wanted  
The way you take away my breath  
Makes you wanted

Your love is forever so you’re always  
Wanted  
You’ll always be  
Wanted  
Shaylanna Luvme, NY

MEMORIES FADE...

I’m 35 years old and I know this stuff shouldn’t bother me.  
But I gotta get it out ‘cause this stuff keeps on haunting me.  
The baths, the massages, all the times I’d rub your feet.  
I thought it was normal, but then all my brothers would laugh at me.  
You’d tell me I was too small, Just like my father.  
And Yeah, I might have kids, but I wouldn’t hold on to their mother.  
“Learn to use your mouth.” You’d say, “Come here practice on me.”  
“I’ll teach you the ways of the World, but you can’t tell nobody.”  
I knew right from wrong, but you treated me better.  
All the trips to the mall... that nice sweater...  
Then came Papa, a new man, a new deal,  
Now I’m a kid again, forget about how we used to play.  
He became your husband but not my father.  
And suddenly I was your son, instead of a lover.  
What was I to do?  
Was I sad? Or was I confused? You choose...  
After a while I became an angry kid with a gun and twisted dreams.  
A gifted child with demented morals. Know what I fear?  
I still remember that first bag of weed you bought me.  
You told me not to worry ‘bout my cut. I was working on a salary.  
Then weed money turned to crack money and I invested that money into Coke.  
I had it all... or at least I thought so...  
And clouded by weed smoke...  
But then something went wrong Ma...  
You were there but no one was home, huh...?  
When I came home after 3 years all I wanted was a hug and a kiss...  
But you pushed me away, exclaiming, “Who’s this?!”  
Some days you’re there but then, sometimes you’re not.  
My brothers and sis say your mind has started to rot.  
‘Life Without’ means I’m never coming home Ma. Do you know this? ... REALLY?  
I’m your son... the Lil one... Remember?... Willie...  
I’m sorry I’m still mad.. No! .. Better yet, confused...  
Because we called it love, but the rest of the world calls it abuse.

Wilberto, CA

MATHEMATICS

You: Sexy, flirtatious, and naughty  
Plus (+) me: Hungry and wanting your body  
Minus (-) protection,  
Living dangerously and reckless.  
Divided (%) buns,  
Got to have some.  
Multiplied (x) pleasure we treasure  
And enjoy together.  
In the fraction (1/2) of a second  
A life is threatened  
90% chance of contraction  
Equals (=) consequences for our actions.

Nawty Boy

LIFE IN A BOX

Oh, what a morbid mind, it must seem I have.  
To draw stories of my life, that no one can understand.  
The Jester or Fool, I’ve turned myself to be, she ripped my heart out, leaving me for eternity.  
Believing the Lies, not only hers alone, but mine as well.  
Behind bars & steel. My Life shall be, unable to explain, what it is, you now see.  
22 years have come and gone. I do what I can, to keep myself strong.  
So pictures in Pencil with a story inside, 50 years, with nothing to do, and nowhere to hide.  
But I wanted to share something. From inside me.  
Something no one else has ever seen.  
It’s not a happy story, but mine just the same.  
With these crazy insane thoughts, coming from my brain.  
No I’m not crazy, at least not yet, they would never allow it, until I’ve paid my debt.  
I owe you more than you will ever know, because life in here has taken its toll.  
Sometimes at least it is how it seems. But Never will I allow them, to take away my dreams.  
Conn, TX

DARKSONGS

Soft-core sundown at 7:05; wind plays a tune; red dog dead;  
And, there’s crows, oil coal black, pecking my trash,  
Where do our lives  
begin to take shape?  
Fumbling the moments, all dandy and pink, like the  
clouds that billow, past my Oregon home,  
past the hills and trees and adopt’d;  
and time runs dry.  
Heart, as hard as the bones left in the sun;  
bleeds six-lanes down.  
Hurricanes, glass; oh, glass! And, the  
wind songs convert the faithless;  
and the light melts the dark,  
and shimmers black.

Waldo

DEAR SOCIETY...

Strong in my resolve  
to dissolve  
the labels, you place  
to disgrace my  
WO-MAN-HOOD  
you call me  
TRANSVESTITE!  
HOMO!  
FAGGOT!  
QUEER!  
Because you fear my individuality  
I can’t understand  
your demands  
for me to fit in...  
you can’t define me  
in hue’s of  
PINK or BLUE  
I DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!!!  
I COLOR OUTSIDE OF THE LINES  
I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

I CAN’T UNDERSTAND YOUR  
DEMAND  
FOR ME TO  
FIT IN??  
Terra, CA

ON THE INSIDE HAS CONCLUDED COLLECTING ARTWORK! THANK YOU ARTISTS!

The creators of On the Inside are incredibly grateful to the many artists (388!) who submitted their drawings, paintings and cards to be considered for the upcoming Exhibit! Hundreds of unique pieces, each expressing the artists’ passion, perspective, and talent, were reviewed by the On the Insider curators. Unfortunately, not all pieces were able to be accepted. Given the significant volume of submissions, the On the Inside administrators are a little backed up with replying to everyone. Rest assured that all artwork that was received was logged into the database, along with artists’ preference for compensation and how to handled declined artwork. Artist compensation was made a priority along with returning artwork. Everyone will receive a thorough response for the On the Inside team as the administrators work hard to catch up! Please see a sample of some of the incredible pieces that were accepted for final exhibit curation throughout the newspaper! Any art Postmarked after March 1st will no longer be considered” thank you all for your participation, but we can no longer accept art for the exhibit.

Robert, CA

This list of organizations offers resources to people in prison and is focused on Queer/Trans issues and/or prison activism & survival resources in the U.S.

BLACK & PINK (B&P)

“Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and ‘free world’ allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.” Write for a free subscription to our monthly newspaper. Sign up for our pen pal program and other services through the Newspaper. We offer a limited amount of advocacy for people in prison or formerly incarcerated. Our chapters do local organizing and support.

614 Columbia Rd  
Dorchester, MA 02125

www.blackandpink.org  
members@blackandpink.org

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

“The ACLU is our nation’s guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.” Requests for legal assistance will be referred to your local state ACLU affiliates. The ACLU National Prison Project provides Know Your Rights information on Medical, Dental and Mental Health Care; Publications Sent by Mail; and Legal Rights of Disabled Prisoners. The ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project provides resources/information, including LGBT & AIDS Project Cases; ACLU and the History of LGBT Rights & HIV/AIDS; and Transgender People and the Law: Frequently Asked Questions

National & LGBT Project Address:  
125 Broad St, 18th floor  
New York NY 10004

www.aclu.org  
  
www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights

ACLU National Prison Project  
915 15th Street, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC) PRISON WATCH PROJECT

AFSC offers Survivors Manual: Surviving in Solitary, a manual written by and for people living in control units, created by the American Friends Service Committee. Free Copy from AFSC Prison Watch Project. (Also available for \$3 plus \$3.50 shipping at Quaker Books of Friends General Conference, 1216 Arch St. #2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107)

89 Market Street, 6th floor  
Newark, NJ, 07102

http://afscprisonwatch.webs.com  
afscprisonerrights@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR WOMEN PRISONERS (CCWP)

“CCWP is a grassroots social justice organization, with members inside and outside prison, that challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the prison industrial complex (PIC).” CCWP provides support to hundreds of prisoners throughout California and the U.S. through information,resource referrals and policy change advocacy. The Fire Inside is a biannual publication with a circulation of over 3,500 that is dedicated to providing a space for women, transgender & gender non-conforming prisoners and their supporters to communicate with each other and the public about the issues and experiences they face through articles, art and poetry. Note: CCWP focuses on work with women and transgender people in California, but provides referrals and Fire Inside subscriptions to people nationwide.

1540 Market St. Suite 490  
San Francisco, CA 94102

http://womenprisoners.org  
info@womenprisoners.org

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS (CCR)

“The Center for Constitutional Rights is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights....CCR receives hundreds of inquiries each week and can no longer accept public requests for legal assistance.” Prisoners can order a free copy of The Jailhouse Lawyer’s Handbook: How to Bring a Federal Lawsuit to Challenge Violations of Your Rights in Prison.

Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook  
c/o The Center for Constitutional Rights  
666 Broadway, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10012

http://ccrjustice.org

CHICAGO BOOKS TO WOMEN IN PRISON (CBWP)

CBWP is a volunteer collective that distributes paperback books and a Resource List free to people incarcerated in women’s prisons in many states and transwomen in men’s prisons. “Incarcerated women send us their requests for books directly. We send three books in each package. We also furnish books directly to prison libraries.”

CBWP c/o RFUMC  
4511 N. Hermitage Ave  
Chicago, IL 60640

http://chicagobwp.org  
chicagobwp@gmail.com

EAST BAY PRISONER SUPPORT (EBPS)

“East Bay Prisoner Support [is] an explicitly anarchist and anti-prison group. We work on prisoner solidarity and resistance to the repressive police state. Our primary projects include distributing anarchist, anti-capitalist and anti-civilization literature to prisoners, facilitating letter writing,... and fundraising for prisoners who are a part of the struggle against all forms of domination.” Zines are sent to CA, AZ, NM, TX, UT, and NV, and to queer, trans, and women prisoners in any state. Everything sent to prisoners is free of charge.

PO Box 22449  
Oakland CA, 94609

http://eastbayprisonersupport.wordpress.com  
EBPS@riseup.net

GAY AND LESBIAN ADVOCATES AND DEFENDERS (GLAD)

“Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation.”GLAD can provide Know Your Rights information, and help with questions about your legal rights related to your sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status.

30 Winter Street, STE 800  
Boston, MA 02108

www.glad.org/work/education  
gladlaw@glad.org

THE GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO: T.I.P. JOURNAL

The GIC of Colorado “provide[s] support for all gender identities and expressions through direct services and social change utilizing empowerment, identity affirmation, outreach, education, advocacy, creating safe spaces and a sense of community. The Gender Identity Center of Colorado’s “Transgenders in Prison” (T.I.P) Journal is published as a show of support for those who are currently incarcerated and often affected by abuse within the prison system. This Journal is free to all prisoners who request it.”

1151 S Hurron St  
Denver CO 80223

www.gicofcolo.org/tip  
info@gicofcolo.org

HEARTS ON A WIRE

“We are trans and gender variant people building a movement for gender self-determination, racial and economic justice, and an end to policing and imprisoning our communities.” Free Zine ‘Hearts on a Wire’ goes out seasonally, to transgender and gender variant prisoners in Pennsylvania only.

1315 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia PA 19107

www.facebook.com/HeartsOnAWire  
heartsonawire@gmail.com

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT

Inside Books Project is an Austin-based community service volunteer organization.Their Resource Guide is sent nationwide, and book packages are sent to state and federal prisoners in Texas. Inside Books has an LGBTQ/ Gender Studies section in their library.

Inside Books Project  
c/o 12th Street Books  
827 West 12th Street

http://insidebooksproject.org

JUST DETENTION INTERNATIONAL (JDI) (FORMERLY ‘STOP PRISON RAPE’)

“Just Detention International is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention.” Write for a free support packet for survivors of sexual abuse in prison/detention. Prisoners can write confidential/legal mail to Cynthia Totten, Esq.CA Attorney Reg. #199266

3325 Wilshire Blvd Suite 340  
Los Angeles CA 90010

www.justdetention.org  
info@justdetention.org

LAMBDA LEGAL

“Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal’s Help Desk provides information and assistance regarding discrimination related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and HIV status. While we are not able to take every case, the Help Desk will discuss your legal issue with you, and will provide useful information.

120 Wall Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10005-3919  
phone 866-542-8336, 212-809-8585

www.lambdalegal.org  
members@lambdalegal.org

LGBT BOOKS TO PRISONERS PROJECT C/O RAINBOW BOOK COOPERATIVE

People in prison can receive free books (will try to provide the kind of book requested, not specific titles), including copies of the Against Equality series: Prisons Will Not Protect You, Don’t Ask to Fight Their Wars, and Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage. Write for your free copy (not available for prisoners in Texas at this time).

426 W. Gilman Street  
Madison, WI 53703

http://lgbtbookstoprisoners.org  
lgbtbookstoprisoners@gmail.com

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS (NCLR)

“NCLR is a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education.” Provides free legal assistance to LGBT people and their legal advocates, including information about laws that affect LGBT people and resources for people facing discrimination or other civil rights issues. (They do not provide legal representation or take on cases through the Legal Information Helpline.)

870 Market St., Ste 370  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
phone 800.528.6257,  
415.392.6257

www.nclrights.org/legal-help-resources  
Info@NCLRights.org

THE NETWORK/LA RED (TNLR)

“The Network/La Red is a survivor-led, social justice organization that works to end partner abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, BDSM, polyamorous, and queer communities.” The hotline provides confidential support, information, and referrals to LGBTQ/T partner abuse survivors. Write to request information & resources for survivors of partner abuse.

PO Box 6011  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-742-4911 (Voice)  
617-227-4911 (TTY)

http://tnlr.org  
community@tnlr.org

PEN WRITING PROGRAM FOR PRISONERS

“The PEN Prison Writing Program believes in the restorative, rehabilitative power of writing and provides hundreds of inmates across the country with skilled writing teachers and audiences for their work.” Free ‘Handbook for Writers in Prison’. PEN sends a booklet with tips on writing. The book also contains helpful resources such as free books and education programs.

PEN American Center  
588 Broadway, Suite 303  
New York, NY 10012

http://pen.org/prison-writing  
prisonwriting@pen.org

POZ MAGAZINE

POZ is an award-winning print and online brand for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Free subscription to any HIV+ person that cannot afford it.

462 Seventh Avenue, 19th floor  
New York NY 10018-7424

www.poz.com

PRISON ACTIVIST RESOURCE CENTER (PARC)

PARC is a prison abolitionist group based on Oakland, California committed to exposing and challenging the institutionalized racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, and classism of the Prison Industrial Complex. Offers a 24 page, updated National and State Prison Resource List.

PO Box 70447  
Oakland CA 94612

www.prisonactivist.org/resources  
prisonactivist@gmail.com

PRISON BOOK PROGRAMS - C/O LUCY PARSONS BOOKSTORE

Prison Book Programs will send books, including dictionaries, and two of their publications: the National Prisoner Resources List, and We The People Legal Primer - a popular 40-page legal primer for prisoners, available for free.

1306 Hancock St, Ste. 100  
Quincy MA 02169

www.prisonbookprogram.org  
info@prisonbookprogram.org

PRISON LEGAL NEWS (PLN)

PLN, a project of the non-profit Human Rights Defense Center, is a 64-page monthly magazine that reports on criminal justice issues and prison and jail-related civil litigation, with an emphasis on prisoners’ rights. A one year subscription is \$30. “Protecting Your Health & Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates,” by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a 325-page manual, is available from Prison Legal News for \$16 (\$10 + \$6 shipping/handling). Mail your request and check or money order payable to “Prison Legal News”

P.O. Box 1151  
Lake Worth, FL 33460

www.prisonlegalnews.org  
info@prisonlegalnews.org

PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT C/O QPIRG CONCORDIA

“The Prisoner Correspondence Project coordinates a free resource library of zines and pamphlets valuable to gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual and queer inmates in Canada and the United States. Materials include information regarding safer sex, living with HIV & Hep C, coming out, queer & trans identities, emotional support, legal resources, and more. Write to us to receive a copy of our most recent resource list.”

1455 de Maisonneuve W. Montreal (QC)  
H3G IM8 Canada

www.prisonercorrespondenceproject.com  
info@prisonercorrespondenceproject.com

SEX OFFENDERS RESTORED THROUGH TREATMENT (SORT)

SORT, a chapter of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), works on issues of sexual abuse and its prevention, and runs an outreach program for incarcerated abusers and their families. SORT works to promote restoration of people who have sexually offended by establishing alternatives to incarceration; and to foster a sense of community, responsibility, and concern between offenders nationwide through correspondence with people incarcerated for sex offenses and the SORT Newsletter.

P.O. Box 1022  
Norman, OK 73070-1022

www.satasort.org  
help@satasort.org

THE SERO PROJECT

“Sero is a network of people with HIV and allies fighting for freedom from stigma and injustice. Sero is particularly focused on ending inappropriate criminal prosecutions of people with HIV for non-disclosure of their HIV status, potential or perceived HIV exposure or HIV transmission. Sero’s HIV criminalization work includes original research, raising public awareness through community education efforts and outreach to people with HIV who have been criminalized to create a network of advocates who can speak first-hand about the effects of criminalization on their lives. By engaging and empowering them to advocate on their own behalf and their compelling personal stories we help build a growing grassroots movement to mobilize the advocacy necessary to end HIV criminalization and promote a human rights-based approach to end the HIV epidemic.” Sero shares resources about HIV criminalization.

P.O. Box 1233  
Milford, PA 18337

www.seroproject.com  
Info@seroproject.com

SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT (SRLP)

“The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence.” SRLP provides direct representation for low income transgender people and transgender people of color in three main areas, one of which is the Prisoner Rights Project, which includes: Name Changes, Assistance Getting Trans-affirming health care, Assistance with Safety Issues, Advocacy for gender-affirming placement and conditions, Re-Entry Assistance Fingerprinting and criminal history check. Pen pal program for incarcerated people in New York who are transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming. Please note: SRLP focuses on work with transgender people in New York State.

147 W 24th St, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10011

http://srlp.org/our-services  
info@srlp.org

TRANSGENDER, GENDER VARIANT, AND INTERSEX JUSTICE PROJECT (TGIJP)

“TGI Justice Project is a group of transgender people—inside and outside of prison—creating a united family in the struggle for survival and freedom. We work in collaboration with others to forge a culture of resistance and resilience to strengthen us for the fight against imprisonment, police violence, racism, poverty, and societal pressures. We seek to create a world rooted in self determination, freedom of expression, and gender justice. Although our agency is focused on providing services to transgender, gender variant/gender-queer, and intersex people in California prisons, prisoners with normative genders from all over the country write us on a daily basis.” Free Magazine- Stiletto.

342 9th Street Suite 202B  
San Francisco CA 94103

www.tgijp.org

TENACIOUS

Tenacious is a zine filled with articles, essays, poetry and art by formerly and currently incarcerated women across the US. Their works cover subjects like the health care (or lack of health care) system, being HIV-positive inside prison, trying to get an education while in prison, sexual harassment by prison staff and general prison conditions, and giving up children for adoption. Tenacious is free to women (trans or cis) in prison. Men in prison are asked to send two stamps (or \$1 made out to V. LAW), and \$3 is requested of those on the outside.

V. Law, PO Box 20388  
New York, NY 10009

http://resistancebehindbars.org/node/19  
vikkimL@yahoo.com

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE LAW PROJECT (TJLP) OF ILLINOIS, AND THE HIDDEN EXPRESSIONS ‘ZINE

“The Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP) is a collective of radical lawyers, social workers, activists, and community organizers who are deeply committed to prison abolition, transformative justice, and gender self-determination... We provide free, zealous, life-affirming, and gender-affirming holistic criminal legal services to low-income and street based transgender and gender non-conforming people targeted by the criminal legal system. We help distribute resources and connect people to their peers, friends, family, allies, advocates, and the larger prison abolition movement.” Please Note: TJLP focuses on working with people in Illinois. Hidden Expressions (a project of TJLP) is an annual ‘zine publication created exclusively with the contributions, wisdom, and creativity of transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been or are currently incarcerated. Includes a resource list. A digital copy is available for free download on our website, and hard copies are distributed nationally.

4707 N. Broadway Suite 307  
Chicago, IL 60640

http://tjlp.org/services  
info@tjlp.org

TRANZMISSION PRISON PROJECT

“Tranzmission Prison Project is a volunteer run organization that works to support LGBTQQIA (Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and a-sexual) prisoners nationwide.” Offers books, zines, information, and resources. (The pen pal program is not running anymore).

PO Box 1874  
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

http://tranzmissionprisonproject.yolasite.com

tranzmissionprisonproject@gmail.com

WINGS BEYOND WALLS

“Wings Beyond Walls seeks to connect incarcerated and hospitalized people who self-identify as having mental health concerns with those beyond the walls that hold them. Any initial letter sent to our mailing address by an inmate or hospitalized patient will be read by our volunteer coordinator in order to find the ideal volunteer match.”

P.O. Box 7019  
Richmond, VA 23221

http://wingsbeyondwalls.wordpress.com  
wbw@mindfulliberation.org

BOOKS TO PRISONERS & PEN PAL PROGRAMS

For Books to Prisoners programs, look in the great resource guides by Inside Books Project, Prison Activist Resource Center, and Prison Books Programs, all listed above. For Pen Pal programs, see the Inside Books Project Resource Guide.

Please send address corrections, updates, or possible additions to the list to:

Black & Pink  
614 Columbia Rd  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
members@blackandpink.org  
www.blackandpink.org

B&P welcomes donations to cover this resource list and our other projects. Donate online at http://www.blackandpink.org/donate-2, mail a check to our address, or get in touch on how to send a tax-deductible donation by mail.

Last updated January 5, 2015

BLACK AND PINK HOTLINE NUMBER!!!

After over a year of thinking about how to make this happen we are now announcing that people can call us. The phone number is **617.519.4387**. Your calls will be answered as often as possible. We are not currently able to set up accounts, so calls must be either pre-paid or collect. The hotline will be available Sundays 1-5pm (Eastern Time) for certain. You can call at other times as well and we will do our best to answer your calls.

**The purpose of the hotline is for 3 primary things:**

1. Story telling. We are trying to collect stories of incarcerated members to turn into a recording that we can play at our 10 year anniversary celebration in October. Your voices are important to us and we want to make sure they are part of this event. We want to make time to record your story if you give us permission.
2. Supportive listening. Being in prison is lonely, as we all know. The hotline is here for supportive listening so you can just talk to someone about what is going on in your life.
3. Organizing. If there are things going on at your prison in terms of lock downs, guard harassment, resistance, and anything else that should be shared with the public, let us know so we can spread the word.

**Restrictions:**

The hotline is not a number to call about getting on the pen pal list or to get the newspaper.

The hotline is not a number to call for sexual or erotic chatting.

The hotline is not a number for getting help with your current court case, we are not legal experts.

We look forward to hearing from you! This is our first attempt at this so please be patient with us as we work it all out. We will not be able to answer every call, but we will do our best. **We apologize that our hotline is currently only available to those who can make pre-paid calls.** We will have the ability to accept collect calls very soon, again, our apologies.

BLACK & PINK INCARCERATED FAMILY FEEDBACK! MAIL TO: Black & Pink - FEEDBACK Dorchester, MA 02125

-----rip slip here-----

Every now and then we receive requests from reporters, students, and researchers who are looking to be in touch with particular incarcerated members of Black and Pink. Sometimes they want to reach out to transgender prisoners, prisoners in solitary confinement, or prisoners in a particular state. Often they are writing articles that will be published, sometimes they are just writing a paper for school that won't be read by anyone else. We want to know what you think we should do:

**Do you think we should share addresses and information with reporters?** Yes No

**Do you think we should share addresses and information with students who are writing research papers?** Yes No

**If yes to either question, do you think we should require that they pay prisoners in some way (money on canteen, copy of a book, or something similar)?**

Yes No (If yes, what type of payment?) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF THE BLACK UNION BY BLACK LIVES MATTER

The Shadow of Crisis has NOT Passed. 2014 was a year that saw profound injustice, and extraordinary resilience. Homicides at the hands of police sparked massive protests, meaning that America could no longer ignore bitter truths of the Black experience. Gabriella Naverez, a queer Black woman was killed at 22 years old, unarmed. 37 year old Tanisha Anderson’s family dialed 911 for medical assistance. Instead, Cleveland police officers took her life. Anyia Parker, a Black trans woman was gunned down in East Hollywood. This brutal attack was caught on camera, yet her murder, like so many murders of Black trans women, have gone unanswered. This country must abandon the lie that the deep psychological wounds of slavery, racism and structural oppression are figments of the Black imagination. The time to address these wounds is now.

Freedom Rider, Diane Nash, once unapologetically declared, “We will not stop. There is only one outcome.” Black lives – men and women, queer and trans, immigrant and first-generation – will be valued, protected, and free.

In the face of the tragic killing of Mike Brown, Black youth in Ferguson said no more, sparking resistance against state violence that spread across the nation. For over 160 days we have been marching, shutting down streets, stopping trains and occupying police stations in pursuit of justice. We have stood united in demanding a new system of policing and a vision for Black lives, lived fully and with dignity. Gains have been made, but we who believe in freedom know we cannot rest until justice is won.

The current state of Black America is anything but just. For Black people in the U.S., the shadow of crisis has not passed.

- The median wealth for single White women is \$42,600. For Black women, it’s \$5,001.
- The infant mortality rate for Black mothers is more than double that of White mothers, due to factors like poverty, lack of access to health care, and the physiological effects of stress caused by living under structural oppression 2.
- 22 states have passed new voter restrictions since 2010, disenfranchising as many as 34 million Americans, most of them Black 3.
- In cities across the country, profit-driven policies fuel displacement and gentrification, leading to the destruction of entire Black communities 4.
- Blacks and Latinos are about 31 percent of the US population, but 60 percent of the prison population 8.
- In our country 1 in 3 black men will be incarcerated in his lifetime 5, and Black women are the fastest growing prison population 6.
- The life expectancy of a Black trans woman is 35 years. The average income of a Black trans person is less than 10K. Trans people are denied jobs, housing and healthcare just for living in their truths.
- It is legal in many jurisdictions to fire LGBT people from employment and deny them access to healthcare and housing.
- Since 1976, the United States has executed thirteen times more black defendants with white victims than white defendants with black victims 6.
- Black U.S. political prisoners have collectively served over 800 years in prison and have consistently been denied parole despite good behavior and time served.
- Increasingly, students in white areas are nourished and taught while Black children are criminalized and judged.
- Black neighborhoods lack access to affordable healthy food resulting in disproportionate levels of obesity and other chronic illnesses.

Our schools are designed to funnel our children into prisons. Our police departments have declared war against our community. Black people are exploited, caged, and killed to profit both the state and big business. This is a true State of Emergency. There is no place for apathy in this crisis. The US government has consistently violated the inalienable rights our humanity affords.

We say no more.

- We demand an end to all forms of discrimination and the full recognition of our human rights.
- We demand an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people and all oppressed people.
- We demand full, living wage employment for our people.
- We demand decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings and an end to gentrification.
- We demand an end to the school to prison pipeline & quality education for all.
- We demand freedom from mass incarceration and an end to the prison industrial complex.
- We demand a racial justice agenda from the White House that is inclusive of our shared fate as Black men, women, trans and gender-nonconforming people. Not My Brother’s Keeper, but Our Children’s Keeper.
- We demand access to affordable healthy food for our neighborhoods.
- We demand an aggressive attack against all laws, policies, and entities that disenfranchise any community from expressing themselves at the ballot.
- We demand a public education system that teaches the rich history of Black people and celebrates the contributions we have made to this country and the world.
- We demand the release of all U.S. political prisoners.
- We demand an end to the military industrial complex that incentivizes private corporations to profit off of the death and destruction of Black and Brown communities across the globe.

This country owes Black citizens nothing less than full recognition of our human rights. The White House’s current racial justice initiative, My Brother’s Keeper, ignores too many members of our communities. It does not address the inhumane conditions we collectively experience living in a white supremacist system. The issues facing Black women, immigrants, trans and queer people must be included and we demand a full expansion of My Brother’s Keeper to do so.

We demand the same inclusion from our movement.

None of us are free until all of us are free. Our collective efforts have exposed the ugly American traditions of patriarchy, classism, racism, and militarism. These combined have bred a violent culture rife with transphobia, and other forms of illogical hatred.

This corrupt democracy was built on Indigenous genocide and chattel slavery. And continues to thrive on the brutal exploitation of people of color. We recognize that not even a Black President will pronounce our truths. We must continue the task of making America uncomfortable about institutional

racism. Together, we will re-imagine what is possible and build a system that is designed for Blackness to thrive.

We fight in the name of Aiyana Stanley-Jones, killed by Detroit Police at the age of 7 years old, who never got to graduate from elementary school. We fight in the name of Mike Brown, who was killed by officer Darren Wilson, weeks before starting college. We fight in the name of Islan Nettles, a 21 year old Black trans woman who was pummeled to death outside a NYC police station in Harlem. We fight in the name of Tarika Wilson, who was killed by an Ohio police officer while holding one of her babies, and will never get to embrace any of her six children again.



By *sandra-nadine* for #BlackLivesMatter’s #VisionsOfABlackFuture

2015 is the year of resistance. We the People, committed to the declaration that Black lives matter, will fight to end the structural oppression that prevents so many from realizing their dreams. We cannot, and will not stop until America recognizes the value of Black life.

EVERY BREATH A BLACK TRANS WOMAN TAKES IS AN ACT OF REVOLUTION

Black History Month was my favorite time of year from elementary to high school. Growing up in the 80’s and 90’s in Detroit, Michigan, a city rich with Black heritage from Motown to middle class families who thrived from -- and then lost -- almost everything with the mass exodus of the auto industry, Black History Month was the most exciting time for me and not just because my birthday is also this month. Throughout the years and my life, my mom has always taught me to have pride in my African and Indigenous heritage. Black History Month was the time we could openly celebrate all of who we are as a culture. It was a time that we as a people came together to reflect on all we had overcome navigating a system designed to erase us off the face of the earth. It was a time that we could unapologetically acknowledge the bloody truth of this nation.

We were indoctrinated to believe America (stolen land) was discovered (invaded) by colonist (murderers, rapists, thieves) exploring the free world. We are still denied our history to this day. But we knew it then and we know it now. Our parents reminded us of our rich ancestry. Our grand and great grand parents told us their personal stories of revival and survival. I knew the blood of revolutionary freedom fighters flowed deep in my veins.

As a child and even now, I am inspired by the lives of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, Josephine Baker and my (S)hero Shirley Chisholm. The images of these powerful women, Goddess, Queen Sister’s gave/give me great hope that one day I could be as great as well.

It wasn’t until I was a young adult that I realized that my life would be very different from what I had imagined. I had no idea that I would face brutal violence and structural oppression simply for existing. I had no idea I could be legally denied access to medical care, housing and employment. I never imagined that I would have to right for basic human rights. These experiences are similar to the ones my mom told me she experienced growing up in the 50’s. Similar to the ones the history books re-written for the glorification and commodification of white supremacy. I thought the fight for Black folk to obtain civil rights in this country happened over 45 years ago. What I realized is that fight was not for the liberation of the Black Trans Woman.

Trans and gender non-conforming people of color are disproportionately impacted by physical and structural violence. According to The National LGBTQ Task Force, Black trans people have a household income of less than 10k a year and almost 50% have attempted suicide. What is equally disturbing is the silence from mainstream media, the Black social justice and LGBT organizations. The same systems that are designed to protect us is actively engaging in erasure. When looking at the mainstream Black and LGBT organizations leadership teams and Board of Directors, they lack diversity and representation. How can their work be informed if they don’t even hire us? Denying a Black Trans woman a job is an act of violence. Denying Black trans folk access to healthcare is an act of violence. Denying Black trans people platforms to speak and represent themselves is erasure. Actively engaging in erasure is an act of violence.

Every 28 hours a Black person is murdered. I also know that every 32 hours a transgender person is murdered. The average age of the 12 transgender women of color brutally murdered last year in this country (in less than 6 months) is less than 35 years old. What I do know is that Islan Nettles was pummeled to her death outside a NYC police station and none of the 12 cameras in the surrounding area that should’ve recorded her attack were operating properly -- and even though the police pulled her murderer off her body, he still walks the streets today.

This inhumane treatment of our lives has taken its toll. In January, there were reports of four brutal murders of Black trans and gender non-conforming people of color. There has been no national outrage over our lives. The lack of response regarding the physical and structural violence we face sends a resounding message that our lives are disposable, that our lives don’t matter.

It was because of the brutal violence and discrimination we face everyday that Trans Women of Color Collective (TWOCC) was formed in September 2013. TWOCC is an organizing movement that elevates the lived narratives, experiences and leadership of trans people of color. We have worked intently with Black Lives Matter Movement to ensure that the lives of those most disproportionately impacted by structural oppression are at the forefront of our social justice movement.

My vision is for our collective liberation. We are not free until we all GET FREE.

We’ll know black lives matter when Black folk “SHUT SHIT DOWN” for the Black Trans Woman.

By Lourdes Ashley Hunter originally published on The Huffington Post Feb 6, 2015

HOW ‘RESPECTABILITY POLITICS’ MUTED THE LEGACY OF BLACK LGBT ACTIVIST PAULI MURRAY

Every February during Black History Month, we recognize pioneers like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King who have pushed the civil rights agenda forward. However, the integral work of other activists is often ignored.

Rutgers University assistant professor Brittney Cooper joined HuffPost Live on Monday to discuss the exclusion of prominent black LGBT activists like Pauli Murray, who helped in the the progression of the civil rights movement.

From her campaign to matriculate into the University of North Carolina to her countless articles on race relations, Murray was an influential civil rights activist. Even with her list of accomplishments, Murray, who was of mixed-race heritage, saw her complex gender and sexual identity muted in favor of “respectability politics,” [editor’s note: *respectability politics refers to the policing of behavior to fit mains norms of respectability and acceptance*] Cooper said. Murray’s queer identity likely pushed the NAACP to ignore her case after she was arrested for refusing to move to the rear of a Virginia bus 15 years before Rosa Parks did the same thing in Alabama.



Image of Pauli Murray

“When she desegregated a bus ... the NAACP would not take her case because when she was pulled off the bus, she was on the bus with a woman that might have been her partner,” Cooper told host Marc Lamont Hill.

Murray is part of a long history of gender nonconforming activists who struggled with finding an identity outside of the gender binary, Cooper said. Murray preferred androgynous dress, had a short hairstyle and may have identified as a transgender male today, but she lacked the language to do so at the time.

“[When she was arrested] her performance was male, and she gave her name to the officers as Oliver,” Cooper added. “She, at the end of her life, lived as a lesbian, because by the time we had the language for trans identity, she was a civil rights attorney, she was very well-respected, and respectability politics wouldn’t have allowed her at that late stage of her life to go back and adopt the trans performance that she was so searching for in the 1930s and ‘40s.”

By Rahel Gebreyes originally published on The Huffington Post on Feb 10, 2015

LGBTQ BLACK WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW

PAT PARKER (1944-1989), POET / ACTIVIST

Parker’s activism included involvement with the Black Panther Movement, contributing to the Women’s Press Collective and serving as medical coordinator for the Oakland Feminist Women’s Health Center. Cheryl Clarke has said of Pat that she articulates “a black lesbian-feminist perspective of love between women and the circumstances that prevent our intimacy and liberation.” She toured with Varied Voices of Black Women, published multiple volumes of poetry, and, in 1980, founded the Black Woman’s Revolutionary Council.



This Carribean-American writer and civil rights activist is one of the best-known black lesbian writers of all time with books including *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* and *Sister Outsider*. She was a prolific poet and theorist and was politically active in civil rights, anti-war and feminist movements.

AUDRE LORDE (1934-1992), WRITER / ACTIVIST

STATEMENT FROM BREAKOUT! ON DEATH OF BLACK TRANSGENDER YOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS IN LIFE AND IN DEATH, WE ARE ALL SURVIVORS, #BLACKTRANSLIVESMATTER

BreakOUT! has just heard of the death of another community member in New Orleans, Penny Proud, the night of February 9th, 2015. While we mourn the loss of yet another member in our community, we are reminded how important it is to affirm the value of Black transgender lives, and one another.

Unfortunately, as violence against transgender women of color is so rampant, BreakOUT! was already in the process of releasing a statement called #BlackTransLivesMatter when we heard the news.

Below is an excerpt from that statement:

When the clock struck midnight on January 1, 2015, many people were hopeful for a year of change. Unfortunately, less than two months into the New Year, three transgender women of color, Michelle Vash Payne, Ty Underwood, Lamia Beard, and 1 gender non-conforming person of color, Lamar Edwards, had already been murdered in the United States. Further a queer Latina teenager was shot and killed by police just this month in Denver, Colorado.

These deaths had little to no mainstream media attention. The silence and lack of action from media on behalf of the Black transgender community sends a strong message that Black Trans Lives, in fact, do not matter. When these deaths were covered, they were often not given the respect they so deserve. Transgender women are often misgendered in news reports and their stories are often riddled with patronization and condescending opinions from reporters.

We are calling on the media to respect all transgender people and their families by using the correct pronouns and names for transgender victims and use current photographs to allow our community to maintain dignity both in life and in death.

BreakOUT! is a proud member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which found that in 2013, transgender women of color were the majority (72%) of victims of reported hate violence and also 7 times more likely to experience police violence and physical violence from law enforcement.

In our 2014 report, We Deserve Better, BreakOUT! found that 84% of transgender people reported experiencing police profiling on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation in New Orleans, with 57% reporting being harassed during the encounter. Further, 42% of LGBTQ people of color

reported calling the police for help and being arrested themselves, compared with zero percent of white respondents.

Transgender women of color need to feel safe in our communities. Instead of more police, we need more investment in education, jobs, and housing for LGBTQ people, particularly Black transgender young women.

We know what we need to feel safe.

We can tell you exactly what is wrong in our city and what needs to change. We can power map the city players and decision makers and tell you how our struggles are linked to other struggles for self-determination. We can sit through the funeral of one of our friends and not say a word about the fact that the preacher keeps calling her “he” and the family dressed her in a suit. And if the preacher walks away from the funeral when he finds out who is in the casket, we can stand up and conduct the funeral ourselves. We don’t want your pity.

One of BreakOUT!’s Advisory Board Members told us that every day we wake up, we should look in the mirror and be proud because we have survived another day.

And when we have one another for support and community, we believe we can thrive. In life and in death, we are all survivors. Published by BreakOUT! on February 10th, 2015

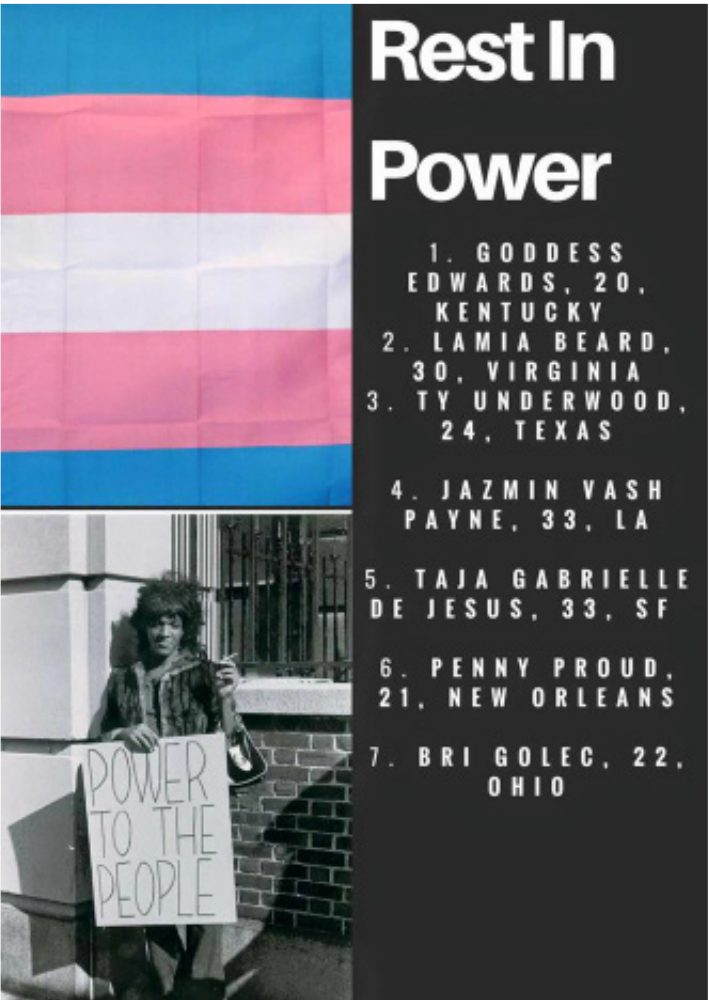


Image by De Leon Alexander

February 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
5	16 Presidents' Day	17	18	19	20	21
2	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! Due to concerns about consent and confidentiality, you cannot sign up other people for the newspaper. However, we can accept requests from multiple people in the same envelope. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope. If you are being released and would still like to receive a copy of the newspaper, please let us know the address we can send the newspaper to!

	<b>Black &amp; Pink - _____</b> <b>614 Columbia Rd</b> <b>Dorchester, MA 02125</b>
If you would like to request:	Please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address:
Newspaper Subscriptions, Pen-Pal Program, Address Change, Request Erotica, Religious Support & Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	<b>Black &amp; Pink - General</b>
Newspaper Submissions- Stories, Articles, Poems &Art	<b>Black &amp; Pink - Newspaper Submissions</b>
Black & Pink Organization Feedback-- Especially the Slip on Page 9	<b>Black &amp; Pink - Feedback</b>
Advocacy Requests- Include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help	<b>Black &amp; Pink - Advocacy</b>
Submit to Erotica Zine	<b>Black &amp; Pink - HOT PINK</b>
Stop Your Newspaper Subscription Black and Pink Hotline Number	<b>Black &amp; Pink – STOP Subscription</b> <b>617.519.4387</b>

**Pen Pal Program:** LGBTQ prisoners can list their information and short non-sexual ad on the internet where free world people can see it and decide to write. There will be a Pen-Pal Request Form in the Newspaper every 4 months.